

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, and 6 have been previously canceled. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 remain in the application.

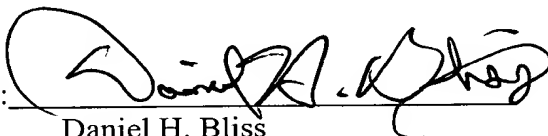
Claims 5 and 7 have been allowed.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Reatherford et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,345,440). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of a thermally sprayed article including the outer sprayed layer having a hardness less than the inner sprayed layer. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 2 are allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in a condition for allowance, which allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Daniel H. Bliss
Reg. No. 32,398

BLISS McGLYNN, P.C.
2075 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 600
Troy, Michigan 48084
(248) 649-6090

Date: January 5, 2005

Attorney Docket No.: 0693.00277
Ford Disclosure No.: 198-1162